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RIPPONDEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

(N. E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.)

FOR 1956

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ELLAND:

M. Pilling & Sons, Ltd., Printers, The Cross.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Ripponden U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Resigned on 31st January, 1957).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

N. E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor :

J. SHARPLES, C.S.I., A.I.S.E., F.A.B.S.S.

West Riding County Council :

Preventive Medical Services : Health Division 19.

Staff with duties in the Ripponden District.

Divisional Medical Officer : as above (M.O.H.).

Senior Assistant County M.O. and School M.O. :

*N. E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officer, School M.O. and Medical Officer for Ripponden Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic :

*GLADYS V. BRADSHAW, M.B., B.S., D.Obst.R.C.O.G. (Commenced 16.7.1956).

School Dental Officer :

Vacant.

Health Visitor :

*M. O. FORRESTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor :

*B. G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Health Social Worker :

*E. C. WROE, S.R.N., R.M.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Mental Health Home Teacher (Qualified) :

*M. H. GRAHAM, B.A.

Midwife :

*A. G. REID, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Queen's Nurse).

Home Nurse :

*K. BOTTOMLEY, S.R.N.

Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee :

Consultant Staff :

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon :

W. O. LODGE, M.D., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Chest Physician :

BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Orthopaedic Surgeon :

G. HYMAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeon :

P. M. WOOD, M.B., Ch. B., M.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

*Also have duties in other parts of this division.

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,

Todmorden.

December, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the tenth Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration.

Under the Divisional Health Scheme your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Borough of Todmorden, the Urban Districts of Sowerby Bridge and Hebden Royd and the Rural District of Hepton. The scheme has led to a closer integration of local authority health services.

The vital statistics for the year show that the decline in the birth rate noted in recent years has now been checked but although the rate of 14.2 per thousand is almost fifty per cent. higher than that for 1955 it is still below the figures for the County and the country as a whole.

Unfortunately, the death rate also shows an increase and once again the number of deaths in the area exceeds the number of babies born, thus continuing the trend of previous years towards a smaller and older population. This is also reflected in the causes of death as the rate for cancer is above average and diseases of the heart and circulation associated with age are also more prevalent. Most notably there has been a considerable increase in the number of deaths ascribed to coronary artery disease and it now accounts for one death in every four in Ripponden.

The infectious disease statistics for 1956 show the continued absence of any serious epidemic. There were eighteen cases of a mild form of dysentery which has become very prevalent in recent years and, once again, it was found to spread extremely rapidly between young children and within a household when a child became infected. After a year of freedom from whooping cough it is significant that on its return to the district only twelve cases were notified and none of these had been vaccinated against the disease. It appears probable that the increasing number of children being protected is having some effect on the spread of what is usually regarded as being a most infectious condition.

A further protective measure was introduced in the course of the year when vaccination against poliomyelitis was offered to children in certain age groups. Like all new developments, it was regarded with a certain amount of suspicion and the response of Ripponden parents was by no means enthusiastic. This was perhaps fortunate, as the local allocation of vaccine was indeed meagre and only proved sufficient to vaccinate 30 children. Happily, we had no opportunity to assess the efficiency of the vaccine as no cases of poliomyelitis occurred in the district but it is to be hoped, now that the safety of the procedure has been established, that it will be accepted by parents at the earliest opportunity.

Clearance of sub-standard houses is now occupying much of the time of the Health Department and the five-year programme is well under way. The resources of the Authority for re-housing persons who may be displaced are extremely limited and the Council may well have to reconsider its building policy. It would be most unfortunate if the progress of the clearance programme were to depend on a gradual depopulation of the district.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members of the Council for their kindness, patience and co-operation and to thank Mr. Sharples, Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, for his kindness and efforts to give me the sanitary circumstances of the area, and indeed to all your officials with whom I made contacts personal and official.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

N. E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,

Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION 1.

Vital Statistics — 1956.

STATISTICS.

Area—13,289 acres.

Population—Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population, mid. 1956—5,140.

Census 1951—5,213.

Number of dwelling houses—1,926.

Rateable Value—£53,519 (year 1956-7).

Product of a penny rate—£205.

Summary of Vital Statistics.

	Total	M	F	
Live Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	71 2	40 —	31 2	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population **14.2.**
Still Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	— —	— —	— —	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—**Nil.**
All Deaths	75	40	35	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population **14.6.**
Deaths of Infants under 1 year— Legitimate Illegitimate	2 —	1 —	1 —	Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births)—**27.4.**

Causes of Death in Ripponden U.D.

	Cause of Death.	1956. M.	1956. F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	—	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8	Measles	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	—
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	—
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	—
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	4	4
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16	Diabetes	1	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	3
18	Coronary disease, angina	10	10
19	Hypertension with heart disease	2	—
20	Other heart disease	4	9
21	Other circulatory disease	—	—
22	Influenza	—	—
23	Pneumonia	—	1
24	Bronchitis	3	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31	Congenital malformation	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	1
33	Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
34	All other accidents	2	3
35	Suicide	—	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	Total, all causes ...	40	35

Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1956:

Based on Registrar General's Figures.

	Ripponden U.D.	Sowerby Brge U.D.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Todmorden M.B.	Hepton R.D.	Aggregate W. Riding U.D.	W. Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (Provisional Figures)
BIRTH RATE:—								
(per 1,000 estimated population)	14.2	17.3	14.6	14.4	11.4	15.8	16.4	15.7
DEATH RATES:—								
(All per 1,000 estimated home population)								
All Causes	14.6	13.9	16.0	13.6	13.6	12.6	11.8	11.7
Infective and parasitic diseases*	—	0.05	—	0.11	—	0.07	0.07	* *
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	0.11	—	—	—	0.11	0.11	0.11
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.25	0.01	0.02	0.01
Cancer	2.53	2.52	2.63	2.24	2.23	2.05	1.89	2.08
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1.95	1.75	3.14	1.80	2.98	2.05	1.86	* *
Heart and circulatory diseases‡	6.81	5.09	6.08	5.19	4.71	4.76	4.47	* *
Respiratory Diseases:—†								
(excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	0.97	1.53	1.32	1.58	0.99	1.37	1.29	* *
INFANT MORTALITY:—								
(Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	27.4	38.0	6.9	22.8	65.2	25.9	27.1	23.8
MATERNAL MORTALITY:—								
(Deaths of mothers associated with pregnancy or childbirth per 1,000 live and still-births)	—	6.25	—	—	—	0.69	0.52	0.56

* Combined death rate from syphilitic disease, diphtheria, whooping cough, meningococcal infections, acute poliomyelitis. measles and other infective and parasitic diseases, (items 3 to 9 incl. on p. 5).

‡ Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system, (items 18 to 21 incl. on p. 5).

† Combined death rate from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system, (items 22 to 25 incl. on p. 6).

SECTION II.

General Provision of Health Services.

A. Hospitals.

There is no hospital in Ripponden. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for aged and chronic sick), Shelf Sanatorium, Northowram Hall Hospital (for Infectious Diseases), Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children), and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mental defectives).

Maternity beds are now only available at the Halifax General Hospital. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g. Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required ; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospital Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

B. Ambulance Facilities.

The County Ambulance Service (Divisional Depot at Brighouse—telephone Brighouse 840) covers this district. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patients to and from the hospitals in Halifax.

C. Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford.

D. Issue of Anti-toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Northowram Hall Hospital and at the Halifax General Hospital for issue to medical practitioners requiring them.

By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Divisional Health Office, The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of medical practitioners in the Division. A supply of reagents for diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation is also available free of charge to private practioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation. Poliomyelitis vaccine is also issued, as available, in accordance with the approved arrangements.

SECTION III.

W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES.

A. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Zion Congregational Sunday School, Ripponden, every Tuesday afternoon, and is attended by a doctor and the Health Visitor. An Ante-Natal Clinic similarly staffed is held in the early afternoon of the first Tuesday in every month. A School Clinic staffed by the Health Visitor is held each Tuesday morning.

B. Care of Mothers and Young Chilldren.

Ripponden Ante Natal Clinic.

Number of expectant mothers attending during the year	7
Total Number of attendances	24

Ripponden Child Welfare Centre.

Number of consultations by Doctor during the year ...	429
Total number of attendances	1102

Home Visiting of Infants.

Total number of live births to Ripponden mothers ...	73
Number of first visits to children under 1 year	78
Total number of visits to children under 1 year	424
Total number of visits to children aged 1—5 years ...	742

Provision of Welfare Foods, etc.

A variety of brands of dried milk and other infant foods are sold at the Child Welfare Centre for the convenience of mothers.

National Dried Milk, cod liver oil, orange juice, etc., are also distributed at the Centre under revised arrangements instituted in July, 1954 when the County Council became responsible for this service.

Care of Premature Infants.

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

Provision of Maternity Outfits.

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

C. Professional Nursing in the Home.

The West Riding County Council is responsible for both home nursing and midwifery in this area. There is one full-time Home Nurse and one full-time Midwife working in Ripponden and neighbouring parts of the Sowerby Bridge U.D.

Midwifery Service.

Number of home confinements	34
Number of hospital confinements	40

Analgesia.

The Ripponden Midwife is trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and is provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor.

D. Health Visitor.

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, of persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

E. Home Helps.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provide domestic help for households "where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age."

Fourteen cases were attended in Ripponden during 1956 in the following categories : Maternity, aged persons and illness. The total number of hours worked by home helps was 1,772, as compared with 1,198 in 1955.

F. Care and after care.

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease, and other illnesses.

G. School Health Service.

Number of schools in district	4
Number of children attending at end of 1956	398
Number of children examined at these schools during 1956	122
This figure being made up as follows :—	
Routine examinations	116
Re-examinations	6
Number of above children referred for treatment	8

H. Immunisation and Vaccination.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against smallpox and whooping cough may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of Children in Ripponden who completed a full course of Diphtheria immunisation, 1956.

Began and completed injections 1956 :—

0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
21	17	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total 42.

Immunised in previous years, re-treated 1956 :—

0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	4	6	6	—	—	—

Total 21.

Number of Children in Ripponden who had completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation at any time to 31.12.56.

Age at 31/12/56	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total under 15
No. immun.	21	28	23	52	49	242	350	765

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Number of Children in Ripponden who completed a full course of Whooping Cough immunisation, 1956.

Age at final Injection	Under 6 Mths.	6 Mths. to 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	Total
No. Immunised —	3	39	4	—	—	46

Number of children in Ripponden who had completed a course of Whooping Cough immunisation at any time before 31.12.56.

Age at 31-12-56. i.e. born in year	Under 1 1956	1 1955	2 1954	3 1953	4 1952	5 1951	6 1950	Total
No. Immunised	17	30	25	40	17	8	—	137

Vaccination against smallpox.

During the year records were received of the vaccination against smallpox of 48 persons living in the Ripponden area. Of this number 36 were infants under the age of one year.

SECTION IV.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Summary of Notifications received in the year 1956.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.
Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping cough	12
Acute poliomyelitis	—
Measles	—
Diphtheria	—
Meningococcal infection	—
Acute pneumonia	1
Dysentery	18
Smallpox	—
Acute encephalitis	—
Enteric or Typhoid fever	—
Paratyphoid fevers	—
Erysipelas	—
Food Poisoning	1
Puerperal pyrexia	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Pulmonary tuberculosis	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—
	36

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis in Ripponden in 1956 :—

	Respiratory			Non-Resp.			Ttls.
	M	F	Ttl.	M	F	Ttl.	
No. on Register on 1st January, 1956	10	11	21	3	3	6	27
No. first notified during 1956	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
No. of cases restored to register	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. of cases entered in Register other than by notification	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. removed from Register during 1956 :—							
(a) Died	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Removed from district	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Recovered ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
No. remaining on Register 31.12.56. ...	9	14	23	3	2	5	28

SECTION V.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Number of Houses in district 1926

Water Supply.

Source of supply—Springs. Distributed by Ripponden U.D.C.

No. of dwellinghouses on public supply (direct to houses) 1428

No. of dwellinghouses not on public supply 498

The main supply is from the Council's small reservoir which is fed from an underground spring.

Examination of supplies.

Number of examinations made during year :—

(a) Chemical—3. Results Satisfactory.

(b) Bacteriological—Nil.

No supplies have been restricted or closed during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Sewer extensions during 1956—None.

Details of any portion of district still requiring :—

(a) Sewering—Wall Nook and Krumlin areas.

(b) Improvement of defective sewers—Nil.

Number of houses not connected to sewers 473
(No sewer available—isolated parts of district).

Nuisance Inspections.

There were three nuisances found in 1956 which required abatement. Informal notices were served and complied with.

Closet Accommodation.

No. of privies	169
No. of pail or tub closets	28
Waste water closets	20
No. of pedestal water closets	1641
Total number of closets in Districts	1858
Percentage of closets on water carriage system ...	88.32
No. of privies converted in 1956 to W.C.'s	2
No. of closets, other than Privies converted during 1956 to W.C.'s	9

Grants are made by the Council for conversion of privies, waste water closets and pails to W.C. system.